



6th Sunday of Easter

John 14: 23-29

Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

"These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Lord is greater than I. And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe."

Some things to think about...

Discuss the meaning of the word 'love' with your group. Can this word mean different things? Is it possible to 'Love pizza' and 'Love your family' at the same time?

Working for peace is also a way of showing love to others. How can we be peaceful in our school and families? How can we bring about peace?

Activity

Choose three things/people that you love. Then write these things in your book and underneath write down some ways that you show your love for these things/people.

Think of ways you can bring about peace in your classroom, school, parish, home and the wider world.

You can show your love of God by following the Mini Vinnies' pledge. With your class, brainstorm different ways that you can follow the pledge and write these onto the board (e.g. to 'treat others the way I would like them to treat me', you could assist your fellow students as a member of Mini Vinnies.)

Teacher's Notes

The Gospel of John is characterised by large themes, often illustrated with specific events and collected sayings from the 'Jesus' traditions. John often circles back over the same material more than once to reinforce important points. The term 'love' when used in the New Testament, is more of a deliberate action going far beyond emotion.

As the term 'love' gets used in so many different contexts in our contemporary society, it might be a good idea to let the students know and understand the context that it is being used in here. There are three interwoven themes in these verses:

1. Love
2. Faithfulness in keeping Jesus' word
3. The real presence of God

This reading tells us that those who truly love God will keep His commandments, and that God's presence will abide with those who love God and one another.